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RESPONSE

DPRK to make leap forward towards rosier future

The international community lavishes praise on the DPRK which is making notable achievements in building a powerful socialist country led by its great leader.

The first secretary of the Maritime Territorial Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation said:

"Kim Jong Un who is well versed in political, military and all other fields is the banner of all victories and glory of the Korean people.

"The progressive mankind ardently admire him as the most outstanding statesman as he makes an immortal contribution to accomplishing the cause of global independence.

"His superb disposition and personality captivate all the people.

"As it is led by him, the DPRK will exalt its might as a powerful socialist country."

The vice-president of Jakarta state university of Indonesia said that Kim Jong Un turns the DPRK into a powerful state by pursuing an original line and independent policies, adding it is quite natural that the international community

says the DPRK which advances steadily without vacillation in the face of pressure is by no means a small country, but a power with inexhaustible military might.

Indian newspaper *Ocean News Point* said:

"The DPRK is demonstrating its might as an independent power thanks to its leader.

"Kim Jong Un is a leader of practical mind who is possessed of seasoned leadership, extraordinary drive and unyielding fighting spirit and who is also strong in faith, courage and independent stand.

"The national strength of the DPRK is getting greater as the days go by as it has an outstanding leader."

Thai newspaper *Xing San Daily* said that at present the world does not repress admiration for the DPRK which is an invincible power, and continued:

"Under the wise guidance of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un with confidence in the might of his people, the DPRK has performed miracles unprecedented in history.

"Eye-opening successes

have been made in succession in the country, including the successful completion of world-level structures in a short time.

"No one can dispirit the Korean people who are willing to develop the economy, culture and national defence by relying on domestic resources and technologies, and their own efforts and intelligence."

The chairman of the Bangladesh Group for the Study of the Songun Policy said the DPRK could gain the status as a world-recognized power as it has been led by great leaders through generations.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un who is carrying forward the ideas and cause of the preceding leaders is being lauded as the most preeminent political leader in the present age, he noted.

The whole world is admiring the seasoned political acumen of him who is steering the political situation of the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia, he added.

The DPRK will make a leap forward towards a rosier future under his leadership, he said.

By Pak Song Min PT

CELEBRATION

Nation celebrates lunar New Year's Day



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Entertainers give a music and dance performance in Pyongyang in celebration of lunar New Year's Day.

The Korean people celebrated lunar New Year's Day.

They visited the plaza park of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il lie in state, and made a deep bow to the portraits of beaming great leaders.

Working people, youth and students and service personnel also visited the statues of the great leaders on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and in other places to pay their respects to them.

Art performances were given in Pyongyang and local areas.

Schoolchildren throughout the country had a good time, playing a variety of folk games including Tansimjul (maypole) dancing, kite-flying, top spinning, shuttlecock kicking and rope-

skipping in various places of Pyongyang, Phyongsong, Sinuiju, Wonsan, Hamhung, Chongjin and elsewhere.

Public catering establishments across the country, especially the Okryu and Chongnyu restaurants in Pyongyang, the Okkye Restaurant in Haeju, the Kyongam Restaurant in Sariwon, the Sinhung Restaurant in Hamhung and the Kanggye Chicken Entrails Soup House served special dishes.

Working people spent a good time having Pyongyang cold noodles, sinsollo and other dishes.

They also enjoyed themselves at the Mangyongdae Amusement Park, the Munsu Water Park and the Central Zoo.

Compiled from KCNA

ECONOMY

Industrial sectors hit first monthly targets

Various sectors of the national economy have hit the production targets for the first month of the year.

The Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex secured enough coal deposit by giving precedence to tunnelling and operated mine cars at full capacity to overfulfil the January

production plan by 26 percent. The Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex and Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex supplied various kinds of mining equipment, spare parts and tools and employed efficient blasting methods to produce thousands of tons of more coal than planned in every shift.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex operated the oxygen blast furnace at full capacity to carry out the Juche iron production plan at 103 percent and the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex exceeded the Juche iron and rolled steel production targets by 8 and 151 percent respectively. The Jaeryong and Thaethan mines supplied quality iron ore to metal factories, the Puryong Ferroalloy Factory turned out 1.25 times more ferroalloy than planned and the Hungnam Electrode Factory hit the production target at 101 percent.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex fulfilled the plan for the production of various chemical products including vinyl chloride and caustic soda.

The Ministry of Railways exceeded the January freight

transport target by 1.4 percent.

The Pyongyang Railway Bureau transported over 20 000 tons of more freight than planned by carefully organizing the work to exploit the existing capacity and potentials. The Chongjin Railway Bureau carried out its plan at 100.5 percent and the Hamhung and Kaechon railway bureaus overfulfilled the plans for the transport of freight for major construction sites.

The Ryongsong machine, Taean heavy machine and Ragwon machine complexes exceeded their production targets of custom-built equipment and excavators needed for power generation units by over 2 percent. The Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326 supplied a sufficient amount of electric cables needed for the construction sites of the Orangchon Power Station and the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area and the units of the coal mining industry. The Anju Pump Factory overfulfilled the production plan

by 15 percent and the Jangsan Electrical Appliances Factory, Jonchon Rock-drill Factory and Ryongampho Machine Factory also carried out their production plans.

This year the Ministry of Agriculture has increased the production of homemade manure and greenhouse vegetable by 3 and 10 percent respectively over the same period of last year.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk, Hamhung, Kangso and Songchon silk mills carried out their production plans over 10 days ahead of schedule and the Nyongbyon, Pakchon and Kumya silk mills increased the production of various goods.

Factories under the Ministry of Local Industry hit the consumer goods production targets for the first month in all indices by normalizing production with locally available raw materials and resources.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



The Juche iron output is on the rise at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.

LEADING ARTICLE

Improved livelihood at top of agenda

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year Address said that improving the people's standard of living radically is a matter of greatest importance for the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK state.

To improve the people's livelihood is the supreme principle in the activities of the WPK and the DPRK government.

For the WPK that takes selfless, devoted service to the people as the mode of its existence, it is the most important issue to meet their demands and interests, and for the government, it is the basic mission to thoroughly embody the idea of "The people are God" in state building and activities.

In order to make the people lead a happy life to their heart's content, the WPK strives to build a powerful socialist country and the government invariably enforces popular policies even in the present difficult situation.

Slogans "Let the entire Party make selfless, devoted efforts

for the good of the great people!" and "Let government organs at all levels further enhance their role as the householder in charge of the people's living!" reflect the WPK's outlook on the people and the DPRK's popular character.

The WPK and the government pay primary attention to the issue of the people's livelihood and concentrate all efforts on stabilizing and improving it even under the harsh conditions in which everything is in short supply.

The DPRK has a sure guarantee for radically boosting the people's living standards.

In accordance with the line of building an independent national economy President Kim Il Sung had put forward in the initial period of nation building, the DPRK established a many-sided economic structure, built solid raw material bases, constantly upgraded equipment at all economic sectors by dint of modern technologies and trained its native technical personnel.

Even in the periods of the Arduous March and the forced march when the imperialist allied forces went to extremes in their moves for anti-DPRK sanctions and blockade, the country kept up its economic foundations and structure and made an effective use of them to demonstrate the might of the self-supporting economy, and courageously advanced for an industrial revolution in the new century.

In recent years, the DPRK has made rapid progress in economic construction by relying on the scientific and technical personnel it trained with much effort and the masses of the people who have inexhaustible creativity.

The independent economy has proved its validity and vitality through history and its solid foundations that bring greater pride to the Korean people as they have laid them by their own efforts instil into them great confidence in a more affluent and civilized life.

By Jong Chol PT

INSPECTION

Premier visits various industrial units

Premier Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, made a field survey of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and the Chollima Steel Complex.

Making the rounds of various places of the complexes, he gave pep talks to the workers who are bringing about a new revolutionary upswing in production.

The field consultative meetings discussed measures to inspire all the officials and workers to decisively increase production by carrying on the traditions of having faithfully upheld the WPK with

steel production and to ensure sufficient supply by relevant units of raw and other materials for putting their production on a normal footing.

The Premier also inspected the Taean Heavy Machine Complex and stressed the necessity to step up the production of custom-built equipment to be supplied to various sectors of the national economy.

Compiled from KCNA



Premier Pak Pong Ju (centre) on his visit to the Taean Heavy Machine Complex.

MEETING

War hero speaks to young people



Ji Yong Chun, DPRK Hero and lecturer at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, tells young people his wartime experiences at the Central Youth Hall.

Youth and students in Pyongyang met with a DPRK hero at the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang on Monday to mark the 71st founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Young people presented bouquets to DPRK Hero Ji Yong Chun, a lecturer at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum.

At the meeting Ji talked about the exploits of the peerlessly great persons who led Juche-oriented army building along the road of victory with outstanding army building ideas and guidance.

As President Kim Il Sung founded the KPA after the country's liberation, the DPRK could win victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, he said.

The KPA could embroider a

proud history of victory and greet a great heyday of building up the revolutionary armed forces as it has been led by the great commanders, he noted.

Ji asked youth and students to defend Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un at the cost of their lives and fully demonstrate the spirit and mettle of the heroic youth in the general advance towards prosperity of the socialist country like the elder generations that had faithfully upheld the ideas and intentions of the great leaders.

Young people expressed their resolve to take their cue from the indomitable fighting spirit displayed by the victors of the great years and fulfil their honourable mission as the vanguard.

Compiled from KCNA

REPORTER'S LOG

Lasting reminder of President's exploits for army building

The *Pyongyang Times* reporter Pang Un Ju visited the hall dedicated to regular army-building of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army, February 8.

Entering the hall with other visitors guided by a curator, I saw the picture of President Kim Il Sung putting forward the policy of building the Party, state and armed forces at a meeting on August 20 1945.

"The President indicated the clear path to be followed for building new Korea after accomplishing the historic cause of national liberation. In his speech *On Building the Party, State and Armed Forces in the Liberated Homeland* at the meeting he set army building as one of the three tasks for building new Korea together with Party and state building and advanced the policy of building regular revolutionary armed forces with anti-Japanese war veterans as the hard core and by involving sons and daughters of the working people including workers and peasants," said the curator.

Hearing her explanation, we looked round historical

materials and relics which reminded us of the days when the Pyongyang Institute was inaugurated.

The President selected the site of the institute, the first military and political cadre training base of the country, named it "Pyongyang Institute" and gave meticulous guidance to its education as its honorary director.

As a result, the institute was founded, which was of great importance in building a regular revolutionary army, in only three months after Korea's liberation.

The President saw that Central Security Officers School was established by separating the military officers training function from the institute in order to train military officers of all arms and corps, said the curator.

While seeing the exhibits on display at the hall, we stopped at a photo of the President, young Kim Jong Il and anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk attending the second-term graduation ceremony at Central Military Academy No.1.

According to the curator, Chairman Kim Jong Il once recalled the day when he attended the graduation ceremony at the military

academy. He had told the officials that in the picture his mother was bending her head because she was weeping and when he asked her why she answered that the ranks of stout military officers made her think about the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, said the curator.

She also explained in detail how Kim Jong Suk had helped the President to build the regular revolutionary armed forces.

On the basis of having trained military and political officers the President energetically guided the work to build regular army units, she said. "Under the leadership of the President security officers training centres were established and core units of services and arms formed to take on the appearance of regular armed forces one after another. On the basis of this, he declared the birth of the Korean People's Army on February 8 1948."

We looked round with keen interest the microphone the President had used that day and pictures and other historic relics showing the undying exploits he performed as he led the work to establish an independent munitions industry.

RECLAMATION

Tideland reclamation projects progress apace

Recently, tideland reclamation in the west sea has dynamically been pushed in the DPRK.

Projects are now under way on a full scale to reclaim tideland, especially the Honggondo tideland in North Phyongan Province for the second stage, the Ryongmaedo tideland in South Hwanghae Province and the Ansok tideland in Onchon County of Nampho City.

In recent years, the General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of North Phyongan Province built dozens of kilometres of dykes on the tidal flats of Sonchon and Tongnim counties in North Phyongan Province, opening up a bright prospect for acquiring extensive cultivation areas. After widening thousands of hectares of land by completing the first-stage Honggondo tideland reclamation project, it is pressing on with the second-stage project despite unfavourable weather and marine conditions under an ambitious plan to expand the acreage under cultivation, which is a thousand hectares wider than that in the first stage, in a few years.

Farmers have been doing rice farming for a few years on the new land reclaimed through



PAK CHOL / RODONG SINMUN

Lorries carry earth in succession for a project to reclaim the Ryongmaedo tideland.

the first-stage project, as well as cage-net fish farming and shellfish, laver and seaweed culture in reservoirs for the protection of dykes. Preparations for the building of networks of facilities on reclaimed tideland are also progressing apace.

Tideland reclaimers in South Hwanghae Province also push ahead with the Ryongmaedo tideland reclamation.

Last year alone, the tideland reclaimers in the province built well over a dozen kilometres of dykes in a short time by introducing innovative methods, thus securing a large area of farmland and building on its successes step by step.

The General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of South Phyongan Province completed the first-stage project for the reclamation of the Ansok tideland in Onchon County, Nampho City, in June last year

to acquire hundreds of hectares of new land.

On the basis of successes it made, the enterprise is speeding up the main dam project and the final damming up of the embankment for new sections. Reclaimers build scores of metres of dyke every day even in winter conditions by rationally combining ground methods with marine ones and applying advanced tideland dyke construction methods.

According to Ri Ryong Hyok, department director of the tideland reclamation management bureau at the Ministry of Agriculture, tens of thousands of hectares of more tideland would come into being across the country in the period of implementing the five-year strategy for national economic development.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT

POWER

Complex boosts power output

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex is striving to increase electricity production.

It is conducting a dynamic technical innovation drive to operate additionally installed generating facilities on a regular basis and remarkably boost power output of each generator.

The generating facility which was installed last year incorporates a heavy oil-free ignition and combustion stabilization technique and a distributed control system.

The technique ignites pulverized anthracite with low reactivity in a cold state with the help of oxygen so as to sufficiently ensure extended combustion without using coke or heavy oil. And the DCS is larger in scale and more efficient than the previous one.

In the wake of modernizing generator No. 3, the complex introduced an efficient pulverized coal sorting machine,

air separator, device for measuring output and amount of supply of each generating facility and automatic steam pressure control system, while setting up a demineralized water recovering system.

Different workshops rationally control air for boilers to meet the winter condition and operate boilers and generators at full capacity to increase power generation.

The unloading and conveying sectors in charge of the preceding processes of production are dealing with coal without delay by reducing unloading and carrying time as much as possible.

The complex also pushes ahead with upgrading projects one by one in order of priority.

In particular, it works to remodel circulating water pumps and make over 100 feed pump fans.

By Kim Ryong Jin PT

PIG FARMING

Disease prevention leads to production growth

Though it has been a few years since its renovation, the Anju Pig Farm is now the focus of attention of officials and experts in the sector of livestock farming as its meat production rate has increased year after year.

It has solid production foundations based on the four key factors for the development of livestock farming.

A noticeable thing is that the security of production is fully guaranteed as all production processes are based on a strict disease prevention system.

"This is unthinkable apart from the green additive produced by the farm," said senior engineer Pak Yong Hwan.

The farm develops and introduces new functional additives that can overcome the limitation, in which importance was only attached to promoting growth in using the previous additive, prevent diseases and raise the rate of digestion and absorption by subdividing them according to the stage of growth.

Typical additives include those for breeding stock, mother pigs with suckling, rearing and fattening.

The farm adds 4 percent of these additives to assorted feed every day to feed pigs.

According to keepers, the diarrhoea which attacked newborn pigs three days after their birth has completely been cured and their contracting rate of various diseases including pest has diminished since the introduction of the additives

made of natural raw materials. They say that roundworms have slowly been annihilated as they are expelled naturally from pigs.

Thanks to the additives, their survival rate has increased from 7.5 to 10 or 11, body weight after birth from 800 grams to 1.2 or 1.3 kilograms and fattening rate to an average of 120 percent, and thus they surpassed the growth rate of the world to ensure 90 percent, and their 100kg reaching days shortened from 180 to 165.

The farm introduced a world-level early weaning technology to launch into a 35-day weaning from a 45-day one while producing artificial milk. It laid a foundation for introducing a piglet production system based on the quinary crossing in the wake of the ternary one, and pushes a project for establishing a protein feed supply system based on maggot and power-free automatic ventilation and feed supply systems at the final stage.

It plans to lay modern scientific production foundations till next year.

"We are now pressing on with an undertaking for ensuring electricity and heat needed for business management by producing methane gas from pig excrement, as well as the building of a compound fertilizer production process as its follow-up process," said Ri Yong Il, manager of the farm.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



PHOTOS BY PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Pyongyang Hosiery Factory turns out a variety of Choljuk-brand products which are growing popular as they are tailored to suit different tastes.

Its sci-tech learning space serves as a platform for its employees to conceive new ideas and develop new products.

In the effort to make every product iconic, workers devote their wisdom and passion to raise the quality of products. Stockings and socks, diverse in shape, pattern and colour, are also durable, elastic and stylish.

INTERVIEW

Success hinges on strengthening independent economy

The *Pyongyang Times* reporter Jong Hwa Sun recently interviewed Choe Chol, section chief at the University of National Economy, and Kim Ung Ho, section chief at the Academy of Social Sciences, about the matter of building up the independent socialist economy.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un put it forward as an important task in economic construction to further strengthen the might of the independent socialist economy in his New Year Address. Could you explain about this?

Kim: The strength of the independent socialist economy is intensively manifested by solidity that withstands any external pressure and influence and satisfaction of material needs for economic development, improvement of people's livelihood and socialist construction by local efforts, technologies and resources. In short, the strength hangs on how firmly the nation's material and technical foundations are built. Therefore, it is just the strength of the independent material and technical foundations, and increasing the strength means solidifying the socialist material and technical foundations.

Choe: That has been substantiated through the whole course of socialist economic construction in the DPRK which has surmounted all raging storms of history. The DPRK, on the principle of self-reliance

in the economy, set building of an independent national economy as the main direction of economic construction in the initial period of a new Korea building and has built and developed the economy by its own efforts, technologies and resources. The foundations of the independent economy were further consolidated through the efforts for laying the foundation of socialism, realizing socialist industrialization and carrying out several rounds of long-term plans.

Kim: Our economy was built as a comprehensively developed economy relying on domestic materials and an independent socialist economy that built up the structure of all sectors, including light industry and agriculture, based on a powerful heavy industry. Therefore, the country could invariably hold fast to the banner of socialism and advance socialist construction.

Choe: Once, a foreign president expressed his feelings of envy towards our economy, saying the "only country that develops its economy to my satisfaction is the DPRK as its economy is not dependent on any others". And many countries admire the great mobilizing ability of our economy and our potentials of economic rejuvenation.

It is the Korean people's unshakable will to demonstrate once again the spirit of socialist Korea by further building up the independent socialist economy,

isn't it?

Choe: Indeed. Upholding the new strategic line of the Workers' Party of Korea last year, the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes in the metallurgical industry broke away from the yoke of coke and made a big stride for the Juche-orientation of the industry, while chemical factories held higher the banner of Juche-orientation. The country's electricity output was boosted remarkably and the agricultural sector produced many more high-yielding units and farmers even in unfavourable weather conditions

Kim: This year we are faced with the task of expanding the country's capability of independent development to open up bright prospects for socialist construction. At present, all the economic sectors are striving to further strengthen the independent socialist economy by dint of local technologies and resources and the high creative spirit and enthusiasm of the people under the banner of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, in order to successfully complete the five-year strategic plan for national economic development and go over to a new development stage.

As we have the might of the independent socialist economy, our socialist economic construction will continue to advance victoriously.

GARMENT

The secret of boosted production



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Needle workers give finishing touches to clothes at the Kanggye Unha Garment Factory.

All the production processes of the Kanggye Unha Garment Factory are put on a power- and labour-saving basis.

Such successes are unthinkable apart from the dynamic drive for improving skills of its employees and innovating techniques.

According to chief engineer O Yong Chol, more than 60 percent of the employees are enrolled on online courses of central and local educational institutions and its sci-tech learning space is operated in an effective way.

Last year alone, the factory introduced over 140 valuable technologies, thereby achieving 1.2-time production growth and saving much labour as compared to previously.

Among its new introductions are a forced AC contactor which helped save nearly 500 kW of electricity in a year, an artificial fur cutter which doubled the

production efficiency, a cutting automation system based on a pattern arrangement program which saved six workers' labour on a daily average while increasing production rate several times, and a digital tape cutter which automated the work previously done manually.

The network infrastructure and computer interface program which links the general control room with production sites and the daily production and financial review program which ensures a real-time command over production are also conducive to arousing workers' enthusiasm for production and improving output.

The factory carried out last year's economic plan at 150 percent and overfulfilled the plan for last January by 100 percent.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

PHARMACY

Intermediate medicine domestically produced

Last year, the institute of synthetic pharmacy under the Academy of Medical Science established the manufacturing methods of 19 intermediate medicines and eight of them were introduced into production.

It improved the manufacturing method of pyrazinamide, an anti-TB drug, by relying on domestic raw materials, remarkably raising the total rate of actual output.

"This has opened up a bright prospect for mass-producing pyrazinamide badly needed in clinical practice," said Ryu Chol Hyok, a department director of the academy.

The institute also succeeded in the research for synthesizing 3- and 4-dichloronitrobenzene and manufacturing 2-chloro-4-nitrobenzoic acid, which make it possible to raise the actual extraction rate of medicines free from imported reagents or substances, and developed

new synthesizing techniques including the one for improving the synthesizing method of norfloxacin to rationally build pharmaceutical production processes to meet local conditions and raise the actual extraction rate of medicines. Such research hits will help the sector of synthetic pharmacy build on successes.

"It is a hard fact that a number of technical problems remain unsolved and many things are in short supply. However, a sense of duty that the people's health hinges on us and a determination to make ours without fail with redoubled courage no matter how great external challenges are inspire us to make further efforts. This year, too, we will successfully carry out the research tasks to be tackled by our institute," said Jang Hyon Yong, director of the institute.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

COSMETICS

Lotion for men takes off

Men's requirements for cosmetics do never seem to be inferior to those of women.

"Maybe men pursue youth and beauty more vigorously than the opposite sex, given the ever-growing demand for cosmetics for men at my stall," said a salesgirl at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1.

Recently, Pomhyanggi-brand

skin lotion for men from the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory is selling like hot cakes at many cosmetics stalls in Pyongyang.

According to the chief engineer of the factory, skin lotion which is foundational in cosmetics is more difficult to make than other cosmetic products.

It should not be sticky when applied on the skin but should be fast in permeating speed and pH balance controllability. And it should retain its fragrance when applied to and absorbed into the skin. It should also have strong adhesive power



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Some of the men's lotions produced by the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory.

so that such cosmetics as cream, foundation and powder can easily stick to it, while suiting different types of skin.

The previous lotion of the factory was not good enough, and therefore the factory intensified the research into improving its quality.

Researchers examined its raw materials and samples and analysed them in comparison with world-famous lotions to find out its merits and demerits and a new rate of composition. After nearly two years of clinical tests, they brought out an excellent lotion.

As it contains hyaluronic acid, vitamin B5, nano-collagen, Kaesong Koryo insam extract and Koryo medicine extracts, the lotion makes the skin elastic and smooth, and gives comfortable feelings and recovers damaged skin cells after shaving.

Users say that it is refreshing, represses excess sebum secretion and maintains its unique fragrance for a long time.

It was awarded the December 15 Medal of Quality, top honour to local products, last year.

By Kil Chung Il PT

EDUCATION

Digital tools widely applied to college education

Modern teaching means have widely been developed and introduced in the country to make education more scientific.

Typical examples include a movable three-dimensional image virtual reality display, a multifunctional teaching desk and an optical electronic board.

The movable 3-D image VR display presented by Kim Chol Ju University of Education is simpler in structure than the previous tetrahedral 3-D VR display and can raise the utilization rate of LCD TVs four times. And it can be moved to any positions to ensure teaching.

The multifunctional teaching desk is also drawing attention as it can comprehensively control educational means in the multifunctional classroom.

"Modern teaching means play a large part in helping students acquire wide knowledge and building up their intellectual and creative faculties and independence," said Jong Se Yong, director of the high-tech product development institute of the university. "We will develop more teaching

means incorporating modern science and technology so as to provide a sure guarantee for the development of education."

The optical electronic board developed by the Achim Computer Joint Venture Company is very popular with many universities.

Last year, it was introduced into over 20 universities and colleges such as Pyongyang University of Architecture, Pyongyang University of Fine Arts and Pyongyang Tourism College.

In particular, it is designed to be controlled by finger or pointer like smartphone without using an electronic pen.

As it is connected to a computer, it can directly apply the data in computer to lectures.

Lecturers say that they can raise the efficiency, truthfulness and visual quality of teaching during lecture with the help of the board by making the effective use of various visual aids including multimedia presentations.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

FUND

KEF buzzes with hectic activity

Over the past 10-odd years since its foundation on January 26 2005, the Korea Education Fund (KEF) has implemented a series of support programmes on enhancing teachers' qualifications, improving educational conditions and environment and supplying educational equipment and materials.

In recent years it has successfully undertaken hundreds of cooperation projects.

Ko Song Ryol, president of the KEF, told KCNA that the fund has promoted the development of the country's education through the construction and repair of schools, cooperation in foreign languages education, promotion of children's health and supply of textbooks and reference books.

In the past three years alone it rendered assistance in the construction and renovation of 11 schools.

"And it supplied such educational equipment as audio-visual facilities for the study of foreign languages, computers, projectors, driving simulation facilities and cooking utensils for practice to more than 100 universities and colleges, junior and senior middle schools and schools for orphans across the country."

It also carried out the projects for the supply of snacks to children and sent reference books on architecture, medicine and other fields to universities and colleges, he said.

According to him, it organized scores of in-service training workshops for teachers to improve their qualifications and rendered a large amount of building materials, medicines and foods to flood-hit areas.

In the course of it, the fund completed dozens of projects, examined and approved proposals and encouraged close cooperation and exchanges with overseas compatriots, NGOs, organizations and supporters of various countries.

In particular, it adopted agreements with New Korea Friends Humanitarian International, Heart for Korea of Sweden, Friends in Education of Canada, SPF of France, World Bread of the UK and International Bethel Vision Centre to lay the foundations for further developing cooperation.

"The KEF will as ever work hard to increase the ranks of supporters and intensify cooperation with them," said Ko.

Compiled from KCNA

TREATMENT

Fumigation therapy brings marvellous effects

The South Phyongan Provincial Koryo Medicine Hospital has made notable achievements in fumigation-based treatment.

The fumigation, which was originated from the long-standing steam bath treatment, is based on the calefactive action of medicinal steam and the pharmacological action through medicinal absorption.

Department chief Jang Jae Phil and other Koryo therapists of the hospital understood the scientific treatment principle in the course of conducting repeated research into fumigation for decades and, on the basis of it, established treatment methods for different diseases.

Medicines are made of well over a hundred kinds of medicinal materials abundant in the country and their varieties are over 230 according to diseases.

Treatment is given for 10 to 13 minutes once or twice a day with a cycle of 7 to 10 days.

The medicinal steam measuring some 42 degrees centigrade in the fumigation treatment facility is infiltrated directly into the lesions of patients and it has remarkable curative effects as the amount of medicine absorbed into human body is over 10 times more than that of the oral dosage.

"Fumigation and other Koryo therapies do not show prompt improvement as against modern medicine, but they have little side-effects and recurrence



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Doctors are engaged in a consultation over fumigation therapy at the South Phyongan Provincial Koryo Medicine Hospital.

of diseases during and after treatment," said Paek Chol Ho, deputy director of the hospital in charge of technology.

"Fumigation is very good as it helps us receive treatment without suffering pain, first of all. When we come out of the treatment facility after moistening ourselves with warm medicinal steam, we feel light and refreshed. My pain seems to leave off, even though it is only five days since I have been placed under medical treatment," said Pak Pong Nam, a 53-year-old patient with slipped disk from workteam No. 3 of the Unsan County Town Farm in South Phyongan Province.

By introducing the fumigation, the medical workers of the department restored dozens of patients who suffered from such incurable diseases

as skin, external, internal, gynecological, otolaryngological, craniosclerosis and dental disorders, as well as those with aseptic necrosis, lumbosacral radiculitis and paraplegia.

"It is hard for a paraplegic to describe his feelings with a few words when he can walk again. The fumigation helped me regain my life," said Kim Ui Jin, a 29-year-old living in neighbourhood unit No. 78 of Unsan County town in North Phyongan Province whose underbody had completely been paralysed due to the depressor fracture of cross thoracic vertebra.

The therapy is popular with patients as it has remarkable effects on the treatment of incurable and other diseases.

By Jong Tang Song PT

CUISINE

New varieties of kimchi added to list

The varieties of Korean kimchi known as a health food in the world have increased.

Potato kimchi, chive kimchi and Tanbaekcho kimchi which were newly exhibited at the national kimchi exhibition last year, an annual event held in the kimchi-making seasons, drew the attention of visitors.

The potato kimchi is made by cutting potatoes into slices to slightly scald them in hot water before washing them in cold water. After mixing them with Welsh onion, garlic, ginger,

pear, sugar, salt and powdered red pepper, they are put into a jar before pouring the cooled salt water into it to mature the food at the temperature of 15-18 degrees centigrade.

"The potato kimchi presents original taste with the combination of potatoes good for health and longevity with additional materials," said Choe Hye Gyong, cook at the Kyonghung Unhasu Restaurant.

The chive kimchi is prepared by cleaning chives before cutting

them down to five centimetres long to put a proper amount of salt into them, as well as ginger, sugar, seasoning and vinegar after one or two minutes, and pour the cooled salt water into it to serve the dish by garnishing it with small green onions and shredded red pepper.

"The chive kimchi with high curative efficacy can be made easily on the spot without the maturing process and you can feel its original taste when it is pickled to preserve its unique aroma and promote delicate and soft feeling when chewing," said Kim Hye Yong, cook at the Changgwang Public Catering Service Management Bureau who developed the food.

It is served by pouring the kimchi water after mixing spices with three-hour salted Tanbaekcho.

With unusually fresh and delicious taste and fragrant smell, it is good for health as it promotes digestion, absorption and nutritive value and can easily be cooked in families.



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Chive kimchi (left) and potato kimchi.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

PROFILE

Devoting her 50 years to primary teaching

Memories of middle school and college years may be more vivid than those of primary school days and some are apt to forget their primary teachers. But at such a forgettable primary school, there is a teacher who has been working for 50 years.

She is An Ok Bo, headmistress of Rungna Primary School in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang.

High platform

It was her childhood dream to become a teacher.

After she became a primary teacher as she wished, she worked diligently to acquire practical qualifications and moral traits. She constantly explored new teaching methods as she deepened the study on the processes of formation of pupils' consciousness and development of their thinking faculties.

She made swift progress in her practical qualifications and became headmistress in her early 30s.

Busy as she was with lots of work like the updating of educational conditions and improvement of educational environment, she approached every behaviour of her own children and pupils including their childish conducts from a scholarly point of view.

Her enterprising way of work successively produced models to be copied in primary education nationwide, such as math talents training, education with the help of visual aids and real objects and teaching of composition.

The headmistress made untiring efforts to improve the educational work at her school.

As a result, her school was awarded the title of Honoured Red Flag School three times and she was honoured with the titles of Merited Teacher and People's



Headmistress An Ok Bo (third from right) inspires young teachers to introduce new teaching methods.

Teacher. And she was conferred the title of Labour Hero, the top honour for DPRK citizens, for the feats she performed in education for decades.

"People say teachers' platform at primary school is not so high, but for me it is a sacred workplace associated with the expectation of the country and the trust of the people," said An Ok Bo on the day when she received a 70th birthday spread sent by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un some years ago.

Be the roots

Education work requires conscience, devotion and patriotism. Teachers should be the roots and base manure in cultivating the future of the country—this is what the Supreme Leader said in his letter sent to the participants in the 13th national conference of educational workers five years ago.

True to his teaching, she redoubled her efforts with the awareness that teachers are in direct charge of the educational revolution in the new century.

"As the conscience and diligence of a farmer are appreciated in autumn, so the efforts and services of a teacher are evaluated in the future,"

the headmistress often says. "If our pupils prove useless in the future due to our cheap feeling of pity or personal interest, no one can make up for that. Our responsibility does not end along with the five-year courses of teaching. If teachers fail to work with clean conscience, the future of our country will be gloomy."

She is exact in demand for teachers, always telling them to improve their qualifications in order to take full responsibility for their pupils with great practical abilities and clear conscience. Many of the teachers of the school have been given the title of Model Teacher and the certificate of registration of new teaching method and highly appreciated at national symposium on teaching methods.

Despite her advanced years, she still strives to introduce new teaching methods that conform to the trend of developing education and pedagogical requirements.

Her two daughters are also teachers.

She tells them time and again that only robust roots can ensure rich fruits.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

ICH

Education ensures sustainable ICH development

With intangible cultural heritage representing an increasing portion of the national cultural heritage, public interest in it is growing day by day.

The *Pyongyang Times* reporter Kim Rye Yong interviewed Jo Chol, vice-chairman of the Education Commission, about the sustainable development of ICH and education.

Education plays a very important role in achieving sustainable development of intangible cultural heritage, I think.

You are right. ICH may lose its orthodoxy as it is lost or its original features change due to various factors with the passage of time, or there may be many vicissitudes in the course of inheriting it.

It is education that helps overcome these defects. Through education nationals of a country, especially the younger generations, can correctly understand the original content and features of intangible cultural heritage elements created by their ancestors and build capacity for the protection and management of and scientific research into them.

Would you like to tell me about the education on ICH in the country?

The DPRK government has attached great importance to the role of education in the sustainable development of ICH and enforced a correct education policy for a long time.

It strengthens regular education on ICH.

At the primary school level education is given to help pupils have an idea of ICH elements they usually come into contact with during their life including national sports, folk games and traditional foods and arts in consideration of the characteristic features of their age group. In the secondary schooling classes are given on history, culture and history of the development of human societies

as subjects and students are kept well-informed about folk games and national foods.

According to the measure taken by the Education Commission in February 2016, information about ICH has been added to the curricula at Kim Il Sung University, Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce and other universities and colleges.

Non-regular education on it is also widely encouraged.

In families parents and other seniors intentionally get their children to perform ICH elements in various aspects including dietary practice, dressing, family rites and manners, folk holidays and folk games so that they can accept those which have been passed on from their parents as their own heritage and carry them on.

Books on ICH are also published in various forms to suit the readers' ages and their psychological features for public education, which plays an important part in overall public education.

A large number of ICH elements have been inscribed as world, national and local ICH elements and a variety of activities conducted to protect ICH elements in recent years. Will you tell me about the activities the education sector has conducted in this respect?

As I mentioned above, formal education on ICH at schools at all levels helps rising generations have a better understanding of and practise ICH elements more actively and produces experts in the field systematically.

It also encourages girl students to wear *chima* and *jogori*, traditional women's costume of the Korean nation, and schoolchildren to play folk games, sing folk songs and dance folk dances in everyday life as well as on holidays.

grasses in order to breed a soft variety of livestock feed with high nutritive value.

In addition, researchers of the branch solved scientific and technological problems arising in the introduction of stem cell technique into clinical practice and the production of highly-effective medicines and produced many research findings in a short time including the introduction of a method of treating enzyme into the processing of vegetable sugar raw material and the

technique of selecting pig of good breed based on DNA molecular tracer.

By Ri Sang Il PT



Bioengineers work on a project to breed a new variety of crop at the State Academy of Sciences.

SCI-TECH

Latest bioengineering research findings

The Bioengineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences has come up with valuable research findings conducive to developing agriculture, fisheries, public health and foodstuff industry.

Researchers of the branch introduced newly bred salt-tolerant rice into some salt-stricken paddies in North Phyongan and South Hwanghae provinces to boost rice yield more than previously. As it is a variety capable of ensuring the per-hectare yield as much as that in rice paddies with 0.3

percent salinity, it is said to be very efficient in the farming on reclaimed tideland as well as the fields that were affected by tidal waves.

Researchers of the animal gene engineering sector under the branch increased the number of pure-bred goats by applying the embryo transplantation technique and artificial insemination at the livestock farming base in the Sepho area and ensured the production and supply of goats for meat and milk and thousands of sheep of good strain. They also developed and

introduced efficient veterinary medicines into farms in order to prevent death from epizootics and endemics.

They succeeded in breeding a variety of Ryongjong fish with a fast growing rate and high productivity in a bionic method and a carp with a far less production cycle and with a productivity two to three times greater than previously. They also developed a spawning stimulant which enables fish farms to ensure over 90 percent of egg-laying rate of various freshwater fishes including catfish, loach and Ryongjong fish and thereby increase fish production.

Researchers of phyto-genetics conducted research into selecting the varieties with fine growth and yield characteristics among various protein feed

IRAN

Standing up to sanctions and pressure

Iran is directing more efforts to building up defence capability while getting itself fully ready to counter sanctions and pressure of the hostile forces.

Particular attention has been paid to enhancing the combat capacity of the naval forces in the Persian Gulf near the Strait of Hormuz.

According to information available, 20 to 30 percent of the world's oil transportation by sea is made through the strait. For example, Japan brings in 80 percent of oil and 20 percent of natural gas it needs via the strait.

Recently the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps staged a large-scale military exercise in the waters of the Persian Gulf, involving about 100 navy vessels, many troops, air corps and missile and artillery companies.

Military experts commented that the exercise was mainly geared towards demonstrating its capability to blockade the strait, a major passage of the world's

energy supply.

Last year the US officially announced the resumption of anti-Iran sanctions in the wake of its withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal and escalated the sanctions.

Early in November last year it released a statement that it would impose new sanctions on Iran.

The statement noted that they are targeting the major sectors of Iran including energy, maritime transport, shipbuilding and financial businesses, describing them as the "strictest ever and unprecedented".

According to it, over 700 objects including leading banks, oil exporters, maritime transport companies, individuals, entities, vessels and airplanes will be put on the US sanctions list again.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei recently criticized the hostile forces for making bluffs and telling lies, calling on the Iranian people to turn out

for making the US sanctions an unprecedented defeat of the Devil.

The US plans to fuel the anti-Iran atmosphere by holding an international meeting against the country in the capital of Poland on February 13-14.

As a reaction against it, Iran expressed its stand to strengthen cooperation with India, China and Russia.

The international community also voices increasing opposition to the US sanctions.

Even Western countries like France, Germany and the UK, as well as Russia and Turkey, described them as unjust, making it clear that they would take every necessary measure to maintain and expand trade, economic and financial cooperation with Iran.

Iran is firmly defending its sovereignty and dignity in the face of extreme sanctions and pressure.

By Om Ryong PT

CHINA

Spring festival celebrated in China

Celebrating Spring Festival, or lunar New Year's Day, is a long-standing custom in China.

The custom varies according to areas as China is a multiracial country.

Some local areas celebrate the holiday for a month, while others start to enjoy it a few days earlier.

It is said that some provinces celebrated the holiday from December 8 in lunar calendar in the past.

The time when the Chinese people celebrate the holiday most splendidly is from the night of lunar New Year's Eve to the night of lunar New Year's Day.

The custom of celebrating the holiday differs from area to area, but it is the common practice both in northern and southern areas that the whole family members get together to have a meal on the night of lunar New Year's Eve.

In the northern area, locals sit up all night on the day having jiaozi made by most of family members.

In the southern part, residents generally prepare and eat some ten dishes, among

which fish and tofu dishes are a must in a sense that they symbolize wealth.

As lunar New Year's Day approaches, all family members in holiday attire set off firecrackers as they warmly receive their relatives and friends visiting to share New Year greetings and serve holiday foods, sweets and cakes, sunflower seeds and tea.

During the holiday they conduct a variety of literary and sporting activities.

The Mongols in the northern part of the country also drink liquor and share foods on the holiday, and they believe that the more the liquor and meat dishes are, the better they enjoy.

It is a custom for Yi girls in the southwestern part of the country to draw water from the well when dawn breaks since the girl who is the first to draw water is loved by villagers as the diligent one.

At present, various Chinese nations carry on their folk traditions under the close concern of the Party and government.

By Min Chol PT

COMMENT

Shade of Park Geun Hye hovers

There is the ghost of Park Geun Hye in south Korea.

He who had been shrinking from the raging sea of candlelight protesters has popped up in the political arena once again in pursuit of power. He is Hwang Kyo An.

On January 29, only some 10 days after being admitted to the Liberal Korea Party, he came forward as a candidate for party representative.

Arguing about the "services" of Park Geun Hye, he made a tearful face as he said he was "worried she is behind bars". Touring North Kyongsang Province, he tried to win favour of her adherents, saying that "this is where former president Park Chung Hee was born, grew up and set an aim in life" and that he "hopes efforts will be made here to restore the crumbling country".

As to the disgraceful behaviour, the south Korean public decries him as an "accomplice of Park Geun Hye as expected" and "parasite on Yushin".

Then what sort of man is Hwang? What is his worth?

He is just Park's shadow devoid of his own face or voice.

When one harbours an ambition to become a president and goes into the political field, he should have his own view and philosophy and some degrees of virtue and statesmanship.

However, Hwang is no more than a stooge who has nothing of his own and what he had were the posts of minister and prime minister given by Park and acting president.

He found favour with her not because he had abilities but because he was good at scratching her back like a eunuch.

He took an active part in maintaining her reign as he praised her father's May 16 military coup as a "revolution", cooked up the spy case against a Seoul city public servant, disbanded the United Progressive Party branding it as an "assemblage of the north-following forces" and spearheaded the introduction of "state censorship of history textbooks". So he could enjoy such a "good luck" of being tucked in her skirt.

He is now called the "ghost image of Park" or a "male Park Geun Hye".

As he entered the LKP with the label of Park Geun Hye, the party is in a shambles.

Originally, the LKP praised him as a "man of ability" who can stand for conservatism" and admitted him in a bid to resolve the dearth of talents, but now it views him as a trouble-maker.

As Park lamented that "this is not why I became president" when she was to be overthrown due to the scandal of government monopolization, so will Hwang soon regret entering the political circles.

The only thing the conservatives can do to contribute to history is to rot away completely and become manure for the new.

It is a palpable fact that the conservatism which is breathing its last will perish with the arrival of Hwang who has committed heaps of crimes.

The dirge for conservatism has already started to be played.

Jo Nam Jin

S. KOREA

US demand for upkeep rise faces strong opposition

The "People for Achieving Peace and Reunification", an organization of south Korea, held a meeting in the plaza of Kwanghwamun in Seoul on

January 31 to oppose the US demand for a hike in the upkeep of its forces in south Korea, according to the south Korean online paper Tongil News.

The speakers said that the US should have shouldered the total upkeep, but the "government" has shouldered almost full upkeep.

They blasted the US for demanding even the upkeep of the deployment of their strategic assets and the maintenance of THAAD.

Compiled from KCNA

EU

EU nations seek independent armed forces

At an event held in France last year to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, the French President pointed to the need to reduce Europe's dependence on the strength of the US, adding it became more urgent at the present time.

He has insisted on building independent European military forces, arguing that they will be unable to protect the Europeans unless they decide on having a genuine European army.

The German Chancellor expressed her willingness to subscribe to his proposal. At a meeting of the European Parliament held in France, she hinted that Europe should direct efforts to building its genuine army in the future, though she said that the creation of Europe's joint armed forces would reinforce NATO.

EU member nations consider the building of a European army as a pressing task that brooks no further delay under the present political situation.

It can be said they are now in a diplomatic tangle, implicated in the conflict between the US and Russia that are crossing swords in different fields.

In 2014 the US urged NATO members to raise their dues to 2 percent of the GDP in 10 years, playing up Russia's threat. Not content with that, the US administration demanded that the dues should newly be rated at 4 percent last year. And it takes every opportunity to pressurize EU member nations into increasing their defence spending.

If they agree to the demand, they will have to bear enormous financial burden.

But a source of bigger trouble for them is that the security of Europe might be at risk if the US withdraws from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty.

Should the US deploy intermediate-range missiles there, these countries will come within the missile strike range of Russia, and they will be the first victim once a war breaks out.

That is why Europe views independence in security as an urgent task.

Whether a European army is built or not hangs on the political will and collective efforts of the EU nations.

By Song Jong Ho PT

GAMES

Civil servants compete at Paektusan Prize Games

The 24th round of Paektusan Prize Games of Civil Servants, which kicked off on February 4, is running on in different places in Pyongyang including Kim Il Sung Stadium, Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, Taekwon-Do Hall and Meari Shooting Gallery. The first fixture of the year, which is annually held to mark the Day of the Shining Star, draws special interest of spectators.

In the current event there

are four groups classified by similar fields and teams compete in basketball (male and female), women's volleyball, badminton, Taekwon-Do, shooting, 400m steeplechase, tug of war and two amusement games.

Basketball matches are fierce as competitive spirit of each team is so high.

According to Kim Sung Il, one of basketball contest organizers, every team

pays special attention to the contest as it is held every year. "Players have made remarkable progress in their skills and the tactics of teams got more diverse as compared to last year. It is hard to predict who will win based only on previous records."

On February 4, there was an opening match between the ministries of consumer goods industry and electronics industry, and on the 6th the ministries of local industry and land and environment protection, belonging to group A, clashed at the gymnasium of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

Players unfolded thrilling scenes through fast break, lay-up based on two- and three-men combination, counteroffensive and long distance shot.

In the match the former beat the latter by scoring five points more.

On the same day there were women's volleyball matches and amusement games at the Taekwon-Do Hall.

By Jong Tang Song PT



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from the match between the Ministry of Electronics Industry and the Ministry of Consumer Goods Industry at the 24th Paektusan Prize Games of Civil Servants.

FOLKLORE

Folk games for children in winter

Among the winter folk games of the Korean nation there are *yut* game, kite flying and top-spinning.

Yut is played with four round and flat objects like dice, a certain number of markers for each team and a board with 29 positions. The four dice are thrown in the air and the score is made by how they land. The players move their markers on the board according to the points and the winner is the one who first finishes the required rounds.

It can be played by anybody, men and women, and old and young, and in various methods and forms.

The higher a kite flies, the

longer a string is let out, and it is said kite flying came into being in reflection of people's wish for a long life.

In the past the kite was usually flown from late autumn to the time before the warm weather set in the following year. Its peak season was from early January by the lunar calendar to *Jongwoldaeborum*, or the first Full Moon Day. The period was said to be a kite-flying festival of children.

The kites vary according to shapes and materials which mainly consist of paper, thin yet hard lath and thread.

Kite-flying matches are held in such methods as to fly them higher

and show off special skills.

Children also like to do top spinning on ice or ground.

The whip is generally a 50-centimetre-long wooden stick with a cord made by twisting cotton or silk thread.

Children compete with each other to see whose top spins longest producing better sound and get their tops to crash against others' tops to flaunt their "power".

For team play, they are divided into two teams and run in relays as they whip tops and hand whips over to their next players when they return.

By Kim Ryong Jin PT



Kite flying (left) and top-spinning (right).



KCNA

CALENDAR

Sporting events to be held in February

Diverse sporting events are to be held as part of celebrations of the Day of the Shining Star, the birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il (February 16).

The 26th Paektusan Prize International Figure Skating Festival for celebrating the Day of the Shining Star will take place at the Ice Rink on the banks of the Pothong River in Pyongyang between February 15 and 17.

There will be a synchronized swimming demonstration between February 14 and 16 at the swimming pool of the Changgwang Health Complex.

The Paektusan Prize Games in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star have opened. The games will last until February 28.

Compiled from KCNA

FINE ARTS

Artist famed for figure painting



Kim Hong Do's famous painting "House building".

Kim Hong Do (1745-?) was a famous painter who distinguished himself as a typical figure of the nation's realistic painting circles in the latter half of the 18th century.

As he had demonstrated his unusual painting skills since his childhood, he secured even a government position as the magistrate of a county.

He gradually paved his way for creating the realistic genre painting which reflects the reality by breaking the old painting style of aristocrats.

He depicted the creative work and optimistic life of people in his pictures on various themes and by employing various painting techniques and derided the corrupt life of feudal government officials and other loafers.

His typical works include "Smithy", "House Building" and "Washing Place".

Each one starkly shows the

social status, occupation, age and personality of characters and their inner world and gives a vivid representation of the phases of the times in those days.

In particular, the depiction of objects with bold and fine strokes and powerful lines is a clear evidence of his dexterous brushwork.

He also produced many masterpieces comprising all kinds of drawings, including portrait and landscape painting, print and religious picture, to say nothing of figure and genre paintings.

He is known as a master painter who opened up a new phase for painting circles in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty between 18th and 19th century, and his posthumous works belong to the priceless art wealth of the nation.

By Kil Chung Il PT

